

CABINET

11 June 2003

RELEASE OF OPEN SPACE FUNDS FOR DURLEY PARISH COUNCIL

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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RECENT REFERENCES:

CAB 588 Review of Open Space Strategy and Funding System 19 March 2003

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report sets out the details of a new Multi-Use Games Area at Durley Recreation Ground. The Parish Council has requested the release of Open Space Funds to purchase groundwork, surfacing, equipment, and fencing. As the scheme is in excess of £10,000, Cabinet approval is needed. It is recommended that the amount requested be released. Planning Permission is not required as the work is 'Permitted Development' under The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995, Schedule 2, Part 12. i.e. the development will not exceed 4m in height or 200 cubic metres capacity.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1 That £29,000 be released from the Open Space Fund to Durley Parish Council for the provision of a Multi-Use Games Area.

CABINET11 June 2003RELEASE OF OPEN SPACE FUNDS FOR DURLEYREPORT OF DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICESDETAIL:1 Introduction

- 1.1 Durley Parish Council has recently submitted details of an open space scheme at the Recreation Ground, requesting the release of £29,000 from the District Open Space Fund. As the amount will exceed £10,000, the release of funds requires Cabinet approval.

2 Details of the Scheme

- 2.1 Several years ago Durley Parish Council was asked if a tennis court could be provided at Durley Recreation Ground but were unable to find sufficient funds. Since then teenagers and adults have only had a football pitch. The Open Space Strategy has for a number of years recognised the shortfall in teenage facilities in the parish and the Parish Council felt that a multi-surface court, incorporating a basket-ball and a 5 a-side football pitch, would benefit those in the village who play games at the Recreation Ground. Durley currently has facilities for younger children with two play areas in the village but it was felt that teenagers and adults who wanted to play more structured games were not catered for. The incorporation of a tennis court would mean that usage could be expanded to anyone else in the village.
- 2.2 Over the last 18 months Durley Parish Council has been seeking advice and quotes from several different sources and now feel that the current quotation from Base Leisure of £31,000 represents the best value. Meetings have been held with the Open Space Officer and Parish Councillors at the Recreation Ground.

2.3 Funding

It is recommended that £29,000 be released from the Open Space Fund. This will represent almost the whole of the fund held for the Parish. The remainder will be financed by Hampshire Playing Fields Association and the Winchester District Association of Parish Councils.

3 Officer Assessment

- 3.1 The schedule for Durley in the Open Space Strategy 2003-4 recognises that there are shortfalls in both the standard and quality of sport facilities and makes particular reference to the need for teenage facilities. The Strategy therefore proposes that teenage facilities should be provided.
- 3.2 The Open Space Project Officer has met with representatives of the Parish Council to discuss the details of the scheme and considers that the scheme is satisfactory in planning, cost and design terms and should be capable of implementation within the shortest possible time-scale.
- 3.3 With respect to siting the Open Space Officer has assessed the proposal and the likely impact it will have in this rural location. The court will be slightly cut into a gentle slope at the bottom end (NW) of the Recreation Ground in a slight dip in the landscape. The site is well enclosed by mature hedges and occasional hedgerow trees and well away from the nearest dwelling. The Parish have nevertheless consulted neighbours but with no objection. On balance therefore this is a good site with no significant adverse effects on local residents or on the local environment.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

4 CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

- 4.1 Supporting new and improved community facilities accessible to all within their communities
- 4.2 Ensuring that all new open spaces are designed to meet the needs of people with disabilities
- 4.3 Work with others to meet the needs of young people in the district.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 Available within current resource levels

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None